

# Superintendents' Update

## January 2002

### Bureau of Administration and School Improvement Services Iowa Department of Education

(This document is also available on the DE web site. Click on "Publications and Newsletters" and then "Updates.")

[www.state.ia.us/educate/](http://www.state.ia.us/educate/)

#### Teacher Quality Program

1. **Model Criteria for the Iowa Teaching Standards.** The Iowa Department of Education worked with a group representing LEA teachers and administrators, higher education, licensure, professional associations, and the business community to develop draft model criteria supporting the legislated Iowa Teaching Standards. These model criteria form the basis for professional development provider systems, district and individual career development plans, teacher evaluation systems, and mentoring and induction systems statewide. According to the Teacher Quality legislation, local school districts will either adopt these model criteria or will develop their own criteria to support the Iowa Teaching Standards by July 1, 2003. The model criteria for the Iowa Teaching Standards are available at the following web site: <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/tqt/tc/standards.html>. To begin the rule making process, the model criteria will be noticed with the State Board of Education in January. Public hearings will occur in February or March 2002. Contact: Jeff Berger, 515-281-6719 or [jeff.berger@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:jeff.berger@ed.state.ia.us)
2. **Teacher Evaluator Approval Training.** The Department is currently in the process of reviewing Request for Proposal (RFP) submissions for the creation and delivery of a revised teacher evaluator process designed to support and validate teachers' skill development and align with individual and district career professional development plans. This RFP requires the development of the training program for trainers/coaches who will deliver the statewide evaluator training to working administrators. Only approved providers will provide evaluator training. The RFP is available for review at the following web site: <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/tqt/tc/grants.html>

The training program for teacher evaluators will be a professional growth model designed to identify teachers' strengths and areas of improvement related to model criteria for the Iowa Teaching Standards. This system of evaluation is designed to improve the skills of school district evaluators in making employment decisions, making recommendations for licensure, and providing support for teachers for professional development.

Certified evaluators under this new program will understand the theory behind best practice teacher evaluation systems and quality professional development models, will demonstrate the ability to provide data-based leadership, will be able to identify quality instruction in the classroom, and will provide coaching in a professional growth environment.

The evaluator-training program under development to support this legislation will be the only method to certify teacher evaluators for the State of Iowa. Enrollment preference in the initial training beginning in May of 2002 will be given to those administrators evaluating teachers new to profession in the 2001-02 school year. Eventually, anyone seeking endorsement as a certified teacher evaluator in Iowa will successfully complete this training. A model comprehensive evaluation structure will be available to local districts in April of 2002. This structure will support the developed training process.

Evaluator training sessions will be held regionally across Iowa. A \$1,000 stipend for each trained evaluator is available to the district upon application to the Department of Education. Contact Jeff Berger, 515-281-6719 or [jeff.berger@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:jeff.berger@ed.state.ia.us)

3. **Professional Development.** Initial work has begun on the professional development aspects of the Teacher Quality Program legislation. The Department has started the planning process for establishing standards for career development providers by identifying models of professional development practices and coordinating statewide professional development networks. A group of stakeholders has been formed to assist the Department with this important work. This group includes representatives from AEAs, LEAs, private providers, higher education, IASB, ISEA, SAI, IBOEE, and the Department. The purposes of this group are listed below:
  - a. Study the external knowledge base to develop a collective understanding of how to build statewide capacity to support district-wide, building-wide, and individual professional development.
  - b. Assist the Department in planning the implementation of the Teacher Quality Program in the following ways:
    - Forming recommendations regarding criteria for the professional development provider approval standards.
    - Giving input regarding proposed models of professional development.
    - Generating suggestions for building a system of professional development networks.

The stakeholder group met in November and will convene for an additional three days during the 2001-02 school year and three days this summer. Dr. Beverly Showers is providing technical assistance to this group. Dr. Showers is a nationally recognized researcher in staff development and a highly regarded expert in designing professional development systems.

Contact: Deb Hansen, 515-281-6131 or [deb.hansen@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:deb.hansen@ed.state.ia.us)

4. **Mentoring and Induction.** The Department has approved all districts that have applied for Mentoring and Induction funds. School districts who applied by the August deadline have now received mentoring and induction payments. Those districts who applied by the November deadline will receive their funds in two parts in the spring of 2002, half of the funds in February and half in May. Each district will receive the full \$1300 per new teacher.

If a school district needs to amend the number of new teachers from the original district application, a school district will be able to do so according to its records as of the third Friday in January. Instructions for submitting that amendment to the Department will be communicated to superintendents at a later date.

All districts are required by legislation to participate in the Mentoring and Induction program by the 2002-2003 school year.

Contact: Mary Beth Schroeder Fracek at 515-281-3160 or [marybeth.schroederfracek@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:marybeth.schroederfracek@ed.state.ia.us)

5. **Team-based Variable Pay Pilot Project.** Eighteen schools in ten districts were accepted into the team-based variable pay pilot project based on their fulfillment of the criteria in their applications. The schools are diverse in geography, student demographics, and student achievement. The projects will be followed carefully throughout the year to determine the effects of the team-based variable pay pilot upon the students and faculty at each school.

Contact: Dianne Chadwick at 515-281-3718 or [diane.chadwick@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:diane.chadwick@ed.state.ia.us)

## Open Enrollment

6. **Open Enrollment Billing and Payment for the 2001-2002 School Year.** The recent cuts to school aid do not affect open enrollment billing. Although the budget cuts have reduced the amount of state aid that districts receive, districts are still responsible to pay last year's state per pupil costs for open enrolled regular education students.
7. **Billing for Open Enrolled Students Receiving Competent Private Instruction.** Billing for open enrolled students receiving competent private instruction in grades 9-12 is as follows:

- a) If a student is open enrolled for a home school assistance program, bill the resident district .6 for that student.
  - b) If a student is open enrolled to dual enroll in an activity, bill the resident district .1 for that student.
  - c) If a student is open enrolled to dual enroll in a PSEO courses or course at the high school, **do not** bill the resident district. These students should have been counted on the receiving districts certified enrollment and should not be billed to the resident district.
8. **Transportation Assistance for Eligible Open Enrolled Students.** The 2001-2002 amount to be paid to the eligible parent or guardian is \$290 a year/\$145 a semester **OR** the district transportation cost per pupil for the previous year per student, (line 16, page 8 of the Annual Transportation Report prepared by each district), whichever is lower. A parent or guardian shall not receive reimbursement for furnishing transportation for more than three family members who attend elementary school and one family member who attends high school.
9. **Billing for Special Education Students.** The following chart provides information about open-enrollment billing for special education students.

**Tuition Billing Comparison for Special Education Students  
Open Enrolled and Not Open Enrolled.**

<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT BILLING</b>		
	<b>OPEN ENROLLED IN</b>	<b>TUITIONED IN</b>
SP ED PROGRAM COSTS	(Program expenditures at the appropriate level divided by student days for that level) multiplied by the student days of the student for whom this billing is being calculated.	(Program expenditures at the appropriate level divided by student days for that level) multiplied by the student days of the student for whom this billing is being calculated.
GEN ED PROGRAM COSTS	(District cost per pupil of the serving district times the appropriate percentage for the level) divided by 180 days) multiplied by the student days of the student for whom this billing is being calculated.	(District cost per pupil of the serving district times the appropriate percentage for the level) divided by 180 days) multiplied by the student days of the student for whom this billing is being calculated.
PHASE II	None	(Current year's Phase II per pupil amount divided by 180 days) multiplied by the student days of the student for whom this billing is being calculated.
PHASE III	<p>If the student was present in the district being billed on count day in the prior year, then calculate as follows: (Prior year's Phase III per pupil amount divided by 180 days) multiplied by the student days of the student for whom this billing is being calculated.</p> <p>If the student was not present in the district being billed on count day in the prior year, no Phase III is billed.</p>	(Current year's Phase III per pupil amount divided by 180 days) multiplied by the student days of the student for whom this billing is being calculated.
LEP FUNDING	Not eligible	Not eligible

Contact: Eric Heitz, 515-281-5001, [eric.heitz@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:eric.heitz@ed.state.ia.us)

## School Plant Facilities

10. **Iowa Demonstration Construction Program.** The Department has been notified that the Iowa Demonstration Construction Program (Harkin grant) has been reauthorized for another year in the amount of \$50 million. The program will remain essentially the same as in the previous years. This will significantly assist schools in making necessary building additions and repairs. The department, at a future date, will announce the availability of grant applications. Contact: C. Milton Wilson, 515-281-4743, [milt.wilson@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:milt.wilson@ed.state.ia.us)

## School Transportation

11. **Nonpublic Student Transportation Claims.** Districts that will file a first semester (2001-2002) Claim for Nonpublic Student Transportation may access the on-line claim at [www.edinfo.state.ia.us](http://www.edinfo.state.ia.us). Only nonpublic students attending an **accredited nonpublic school** are entitled to transportation services, and only those meeting the same guidelines applied to resident public school students are eligible (generally based on distance from home to attendance center). The deadline for filing the first semester claim is **January 31, 2002**. You must file your claims each semester. Also, if you have students attending a "Specially Accredited College Preparatory School" (there are eight of these schools) listed on page 131 of the 2001-2002 Educational Directory, you may file a nonpublic claim for those students attending the grade levels for which the school has been accredited. Best of Holiday Seasons from the School Transportation Staff: Terry, Voy, Owen Freese, Verlan Vos, and Pat Ratcliff. Contact: Terry Voy, 515-281-4749, [terry.voy@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:terry.voy@ed.state.ia.us)

## School Improvement

12. **Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIPs).** School districts and accredited nonpublic schools that submitted CSIPs by September 15, 2001 have received feedback reports from the Department. If a school or school district did not meet any of the CSIP requirements, it needs to submit the requirements or a plan of correction to meet those requirements to its School Improvement Consultant by the end of January. A school or school district should contact its school improvement consultant with questions or concerns. *Note: Teams of CSIP readers (representatives from the Department, LEAs, and AEAs) used shared criteria and came to consensus about whether requirements were met.* Contact: Jeanette McGreevy, 515-281-4750, [jeanette.mcgreevy@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:jeanette.mcgreevy@ed.state.ia.us)

## Legal Lessons

13. **Recent Appeal Summaries.** You can find these and all other appeal decisions at the Department's web site by clicking on "State Board," then "Appeal Decisions." The citations are given below for your convenience in the event you wish to read a more complete summary of the cases.

### Open Enrollment Cases

- a. A local school board will probably get reversed by the State Board of Education if it does not grant an open enrollment (even if filed late) request in situations that are similar to the following:
  1. Student, who had previously attempted suicide, still suffered from severe, documented panic disorder and needed to be in a nontraditional school setting (such as a Flexible Learning Center). *In re Daniel Rief*, 20 D.o.E. App. Dec. 109.
  2. Severe asthmatic whose life was at stake if he did not get proper medical attention when needed was in a resident district that had no school nurse in a town with no EMTs allowed to open enroll out to district with a school nurse in a community with a hospital and qualified medical personnel. *In re Shawn Crouch*, 18 D.o.E. App. Dec. 384.

- b. A local board was correct to deny open enrollment to a family wishing to send its children to an out-of-state district. The open enrollment statute (Iowa Code section 282.18) does not apply to non-Iowa districts. However, section 282.8 does allow for attendance across state lines if (a) both districts agree and (b) they put the agreement in writing. *In re Clarke*, 20 D.o.E. App. Dec. 117.
- c. Open enrollment is available for pre-Kindergarten programs, but only if the student is age-eligible to attend regular Kindergarten (i.e., 5 years of age by 9/15). *In re Colby Miller*, 20 D.o.E. App. Dec. 001.

Contact: Carol Greta, legal consultant, 515-281-8661, [carol.greta@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:carol.greta@ed.state.ia.us).